



STATE OF TEXAS  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

## *A Message from the Governor:*

*It is my pleasure to join my fellow Texans in celebrating our nation's Independence Day.*

*From our nation's first moments as a fledgling union, Americans have been guided by the belief that all men are created equal and share the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. On this date two hundred forty-six years ago, the Second Continental Congress made history by founding a nation upon these principles. Our Founding Fathers understood that, in order to secure the right to self-governance, "Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed." By declaring the independence of the thirteen American colonies and addressing their grievances against the monarchy of Great Britain, the founders asserted our right to self-governance and thus secured the inalienable rights of Americans for generations to come.*

*Since 1776, the United States of America has stood as what President Reagan called "a shining city on a hill," representing the ideals espoused by our nation's first leaders. Like our star-spangled flag that stands as a symbol of this freedom, and whose colors and patterns are sewn together by a common, unifying thread, America represents the best of many backgrounds, cultures, and traditions, all held together by our commitment to liberty and justice for all.*

*Today, I am honored to celebrate our country as well as the many legacies and enduring patriotism of our citizens. As we look to the work ahead, let us continue to build upon these traditions to ensure a better and brighter future for all as we pursue our own American Dreams.*

*First Lady Cecilia Abbott joins me in sending best wishes on this special occasion.*



*Sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott".

Greg Abbott  
Governor